has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. In the Budget of 2006-07, customs duty on packaging machines has been reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent, excise duty on condensed milk, ice cream, preparations of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast are fully exempt, excise duty on ready-to-eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes, reduced from 16 per cent to 8 per cent, excise duty on aerated drinks has been reduced from 24 per cent to 16 per cent and excise duty on packaging paper has been reduced from 16 per cent to 12 per cent.

Development of FPIs in Assam

1333. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the high potential for food processing industries development in Assam and other North Eastern States, any plan has been drawn out for development of such industries in differents States and parts of North East, particularly in Barak Valley in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost and Government's participation contemplated thereunder; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing has already advised the States and the North Eastern Region including Assam the requirement of drawing up of a plan for food processing industries, the expenditure for which shall be borne by this Ministry. Besides this the Ministry implements various schemes with higher percentage/quantum of assistance for the North East. The Scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of food processing industries provides financial assistance at the rate of 25% of the Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works in general areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 50/- lakhs and 33.33% of the Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works in difficult areas including Assam and other North Eastern

States subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakh. The Scheme for Food Park provides 25% and 33.33% for general areas and difficult areas respectively, including Assam and North Eastern States, subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores. The Ministry also implements schemes for R&D, HRD and for promotional activities in the North East.

Projects for food processing units in Gujarat

1334. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the projects and other resources provided to the State of Gujarat in the matter concerning food processing during the last five years;

(b) whether Government are aware of great scope for establishing processing units in North Gujarat for the products of isabgul and carrot; and

(c) the facilities to be provided by Government if local industrialists come forward for establishing such units in North Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) During the last five years, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provided financial assistance of Rs. 1301.15 lakh to 42 implementing agencies in the State of Gujarat under different Schemes of this Ministry in Sectors like Oil Milling, Rice Milling, Pulse Milling, Bakery, Fruit & Vegetable, Deep Sea Fishing & Fish Processing, Consumer Industries, Milk processing, Sectoral Economic Service, Research & Development, etc. Under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries, the Ministry provides for financial assistance at the rate of 25% on Technical Civil Works and Plant & Machinery subject to a cap of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas. This assistance shall be available to industrialists applying through the State Nodal Agency as per requisite norms and procedures.

Projects for NER

1335. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned by Government in North Eastern Region during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 indication the fund allotted, project-wise and State-wise;